From: Brady/Cole
To: City Council
Subject: Support for HP boycott
Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018 7:40:42 PM

Dear Cambridge City Councilors

We are writing to urge the city's support for the boycott of HP products, organized by the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement, led by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. Economic boycotts and sanctions have historically been effective in persuading powerful companies and oppressive governments to change their harmful behaviors. It was the public pressure of boycotts, divestment, and worldwide citizen awareness that forced the South African regime to end its apartheid policies.

Decades of public protests led by the Palestinian people to oppose inhumane treatment at the hands of the Israeli military have had little effect on Israel's policies. Living conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have grown ever more restrictive and cruel.

It is time for the international community to step up and tell Israel we will not stand by while they continue to crush the hopes of more generations of Palestinian people. I do not believe that expressing opposition to Israel's apartheid policies makes us anti-Semitic. Nor do I oppose Israel's right to exist as a nation. Israeli and Palestinian citizens' human rights are equally important, and once we are aware of the terrible conditions imposed by the Israeli government on Palestinians, it is our responsibility to intervene.

Thank you for considering support for the BDS resolution.

Sincerely,

Catherine Brady and Nancy Cole
5 Porter Park